

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-20 GAC-01 ACDA-19 IO-12

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TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

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E. O. 11652 N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: MAY 14 INDOCHINA PRESS SUMMARY

1. THIRTY- NINE SENATORS EXPECTED SUPPORT CASE- CHURCH AMENDMENT TO DOS FUNDS BILL BARRING FUNDS FOR FURTHER US INVOLVEMENT IN INDOCHINA HOSTILITIES OR AID TO NVN WITHOUT CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL. CASE AND CHURCH SAY THEY APPROVE LAST WEEK' S HOUSE VOTE AGAINST TRANSFER OF DOD FUNDS FOR CAMBODIA BOMBING. MANSFIELD SAYS HE BELIEVES ANTIWAR SUPPORTERS HAVE ENOUGH VOTES IN SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE TO " LINE UP WITH THE HOUSE VOTE." THEN, ACCORDING MANSFIELD, IF " WILL OF CONGRESS IS NOT ADHERED TO, WE WILL FACE A TRUE CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS." BYRD (W. VA.) SAYS US HAS NO TREATY COMMITMENTS TO DEFEND CAMBODIA AND NOW THAT UNDER VIETNAMIZATION PROGRAM, ACCORDING TO NIXON- THIEU ASSURANCES, SVN CAN DEFEND ITSELF, CAMBODIA BOMBING IS NOT JUSTIFIED. SEN. BROOKE SAYS CONGRESS MUST SHARE COMBAT DECISIONS WITH PRESIDENT (WP, SUN, CHITRIB, PHINQ).

2. REUTER HK REPORTS NCNA CARRIES FULL TEXT OF SIHANOUK SPEECH IN DAKAR OFFERING RE- OPEN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH US IF IT WILL DROP LON NOL SUPPORT, REMOVE US MILITARY PERSONNEL FROM CAMBODIA, AND STOP BOMBING.

REUTER SEES PRC SUPPORT OF SIHANOUK OFFER IN FACT THAT NCNA CARRIED TEXT (NYT). CHITRIB COVERAGE OF SPEECH REPORTS SIHANOUK SAID HE SEES LITTLE CHANCE US WOULD ACCEPT PROPOSAL.

3. NYT' S SCHANBERG REPORTS WESTERN DIPLOMATS IN PP CONSIDER PREMIER- DESIGNATE IN TAM' S TASK IMPOSSIBLE BECAUSE WHATEVER HE MAY DECIDE TO DO WILL REQUIRE LON NOL' S APPROVAL. THESE OBSERVERS BELIEVE RECENT PP POLITICAL EVENTS ARE ONLY BUYING TIME, BECAUSE CAMBODIA' S FATE WILL BE DECIDED BY NATIONS THAT HAVE CONTROLLED HER DESTINY SINCE 1970: US, CHINA, UNCLASSIFIED

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USSR AND NVN. IN TAM TELLS NEWSMEN TIMES CALL FOR EXCEPTIONAL APPROACHES TO PROBLEMS BECAUSE " IT IS NOW ALL ANARCHY. THAT IS WHY WE HAVE CORRUPTION AND SMUGGLING AND SUCH THINGS."

4. VC COMPLAINS TO ICCS US PLANES BOMB COMMUNIST- CONTROLLED ZONE OF LOC NINH- LOCTHANH,75 MILES NORTH OF SAIGON AND 5 MILES FROM CAMBODIA BORDER. EMBASSY SAIGON SPOKESMAN SAYS US DOES NOT BOMB IN SVN AND BELIEVES VC ARE MAKING UP CHARGE. VC NOTE TO ICCS CHARGES SERIES OF US STRIKES BETWEEN MAY 2 AND MAY 9 ALONG 40- MILE STRETCH OF BORDER NEAR VC WAR MATERIEL ENTRY POINT OF XA MAT (NYT, WP, CHITRIB, NYDN).

5. USAF THAILAND ORDERS AIR COORDINATORS DIRECTING

AIR STRIKES IN CAMBODIA SWITCH TO " TOP- SECRET"
FREQUENCIES TO PREVENT WESTERN NEWSMEN IN PP FROM
MONITORING GROUND- TO- AIR COMMUNICATIONS (NYDN).

6. IN US NEWS AND WORLD REPORT INTERVIEW, AMB. BUNKER
PREDICTS THAT WHEN PEACE COMES RVN WILL " BE ONE OF
THE RICHEST" NATIONS IN SEA - BOOMING LIKE ROK, MALAYSIA
AND THAILAND. SAYS US HAS REASON TO HOPE HANOI WILL
LIVE UP TO AGREEMENT, BUT " MASSIVE INFILTRATION OF
WEAPONS AND TROOPS" INTO SVN " DOES CALL INTO QUESTION
HANOI' S INTENTIONS" WITH RESPECT TO C- F (NYT).

7. NYT' S BROWNE IN VIENTIANE DESCRIBES ROLE OF THAI
IRREGULARS, SAYING THEIR PRESENCE THERE IS OFTEN TAKEN
FOR GRANTED BUT IS AN ARRANGEMENT WHICH BOTH RLG AND
RTG ARE HAPPY ABOUT. BROWNE SAYS CIA " CASE OFFICERS"
OFTEN ACTUALLY LEAD IRREGULAR UNITS IN COMBAT; NOTES
LONG- TIME CONNECTIONS BETWEEN RIGHT- WING SOUTHERN
LAOTIAN MILITARY COMMANDERS AND THAI ARMY COMMANDERS;
SAYS IRREGULARS RECEIVE TWICE PAY OF RLG REGULARS,
BETTER FRINGE AND HEALTH BENEFITS AND FREEDOM FROM

ADMINISTRATIVE CORRUPTION; SAYS FACT THAT GODLEY DIS-
CLOSED NUMBER OF IRREGULARS AT SFRC HEARING MAY MEAN
US CONSIDERING CURTAILING SUPPORT OF IRREGULARS,
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NOTING FACT THAT LAOS C- F CALLS FOR WITHDRAWAL OF
ALL US AND THAI TROOPS WITHIN 60 DAYS OF FORMATION
OF COALITION GOVERNMENT.

8. SUN SEES REJECTION OF TRANSFER AUTHORITY AS HOUSE
TURNABOUT ON WAR POLICY. EXPECTS ADMINISTRATION TO
VETO BILL IF PASSED BY SENATE, AND TO GO ON WITH AIR
STRIKES AGAINST KIS MENACING PP. PRESIDENT, WEAKENED
BY WATERGATE, CAN VETO ONLY SO OFTEN BEFORE HE WILL
NEED MAJOR LEGISLATION TO CONTINUE US INVOLVEMENT
IN INDOCHINA. THEREFORE, OPPONENTS OF CAMBODIAN
OPERATION SHOULD KEEP UP PRESSURE, AND DEVISE STRATEGY
THAT WILL MEET IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE OF STOPPING
BOMBING. OTHERWISE, CONGRESS COULD BE ENTRAPPED IN
MORE GENERAL DISPUTE OVER WAR POWERS ISSUE.

9. NYT DETECTS SIGNS ADMINISTRATION IS CHANGING ITS
APPROACH TOWARD RENEWED PARIS TALKS, TAKING INTO
ACCOUNT NEW POLITICAL REALITIES AT HOME. NOTES ABRUPT
CHANGE FROM ATMOSPHERE OF RECRIMINATION AND THREATS
WHEN AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN WENT TO PARIS TWO WEEKS AGO,
TO STATEMENTS OF RECENT DAYS BY SECRETARY AND SULLIVAN
SUGGESTING THAT US ECON ASSISTANCE COULD INDUCE HANOI
COMPLY WITH PARIS AGREEMENTS. OFFERING ECON INDUCEMENT
IS DUBIOUS PROPOSITION. CENTRAL PROBLEM THAT HAK

FACES IN PARIS IS NOT SOLVED IN NEGOTIATIONS - RESOLUTION OF POLITICAL CONFLICTS IN INDOCHINA, WITHOUT WHICH THERE CAN BE NO PEACE. PROBLEM CAN ONLY BE SOLVED BY LOCALS. US ECONOMIC LEVERAGE MIGHT, IF TACTFULLY USED IN SAIGON, PP, VIENTIANE AND HANOI, HELP BRING ABOUT POLITICAL ACCOMMODATIONS THAT COULD SAVE PEACE; MORE BOMBS WILL NOT. CONGRESS HAS RECOGNIZED, AS ADMINISTRATION APPARENTLY HAS NOT, THAT PARIS AGREEMENTS HAVE ALREADY FULFILLED THEIR PRIMARY FUNCTION FROM US VIEWPOINT - DISENGAGEMENT OF US TROOPS AND POWS FROM INDOCHINA.

10. CSM' S SAIKOWSKI CITES US INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS AS SAYING THAT HANOI IS UNDOUBTEDLY EYEING WATERGATE WITH FASCINATION, BUT TREATMENT IN NVN NEWS MEDIA HAS BEEN RELATIVELY STRAIGHTFORWARD AND CAUTIOUS. RADIO UNCLASSIFIED

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REPORTS, CITING WESTERN AGENCIES, CONVEY THEME THAT PRESIDENT' S ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN " PARALYZED." BUT FOR MOMENT, VIETNAMESE SPECIALISTS BELIEVE, HANOI IS AWARE THAT PRESIDENT HAS CAPACITY TO ACT AND HAS

CONSISTENTLY MATCHED HIS WORDS BY ACTIONS DESPITE OPPOSITION AT HOME. US OFFICIALS SAY HOUSE VOTE JUST BEFORE HAK' S PARIS TRIP WEAKENS US ATTEMPTS TO SECURE COMPLIANCE WITH VN ACCORD. THEY FEEL THAT SIMILAR SENATE ACTION COULD HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES. BASIC QUESTION CONGRESS AND OTHERS MUST ASK THEMSELVES, HAK SAYS, IS WHETHER PEACE AGREEMENT CAN BE MAINTAINED " WITHOUT EITHER SANCTIONS OR INCENTIVES."

11. MARQUIS CHILDS (WP, SUN), IN PEKING, REPORTS ON PRE- DEPARTURE INTERVIEW WITH SIHANOUK. SAYS PRC HAS GIVEN SIHANOUK COMPLETE SUPPORT, PROVIDING PLANE AND CREW FOR HIS RECENT RETURN JOURNEY FROM LIBERATED AREAS OF CAMBODIA AND RESOURCES FOR PRESENT JOURNEY. THINKS LIKELIHOOD OF SIHANOUK RESUMING AUTHORITY IN PP MUST BE PUT OFF AT LEAST UNTIL NEXT YEAR, IF NOT LONGER. ONE REASON IS THAT 70- YEAR- OLD MOTHER IS UNDER HOUSE ARREST IN PP. IF PP TAKEN BY KHMER ROUGE, SIHANOUK FEARS, IT WOULD BE DESTROYED BY US BOMBERS. YOU CAN' T EXPECT ME, HE SAYS, TO ASSASSINATE MY MOTHER. CHILDS FINDS SIHANOUK RADIATING OPTIMISM THAT CIRCUMSTANCES SEEM HARDLY TO JUSTIFY. SIHANOUK SAYS REPORTED TARGETING BY US EMBASSY VIOLATES INTERNATIONAL LAW AND WHEN WAR ENDS HE WILL EXPEL AMBASSADOR AND STAFF. HE ONCE THOUGHT NIXON WAS HIS FRIEND, BUT NOW MANSFIELD' S THE ONE.

12. EVANS AND NOVAK, (IN VIENTIANE), CITE US AND LAO OFFICIALS AS BELIEVING HANOI- CONTROLLED PL WILL NOT

SERIOUSLY NEGOTIATE COALITION GOVERNMENT WITH RLG
UNTIL HANOI CONQUERS SVN OR CAMBODIA FALLS AND WHILE
IT STILL NEEDS HO TRAIL. EVEN WITH GUARANTEED ROUTE
THROUGH CAMBODIA, IT IS UNIVERSALLY BELIEVED THAT NVN
WILL NEVER REMOVE ALL ITS 80,000 REGULARS FROM LAOS
BECAUSE HANOI CANNOT COUNT ON PL TROOPS AGAINST CIA-
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TRAINED LAO IRREGULARS. MOREOVER, RESUMED NEGOTIATIONS
WOULD CONFRONT PARTITION QUESTION. SOUVANNA ENVISIONS
NON- PARTITIONED COUNTRY; FOLLOWING HANOI ORDERS, PL
INSIST ON VIRTUAL PARTITION WITH COMMUNIST DOMAINS
HERMETICALLY SEALED BY MILITARY BUFFER ZONES. CITE
SOUVANNA AS REPEATING WHAT HE SAID THREE YEARS AGO:
- WE MUST NOT FORGET THAT HO CHI MINH HOPED TO FOLLOW
THE FRENCH IN RULING ALL INDOCHINA... ONLY THE GREAT
POWERS, GUARANTEEING OUR NEUTRALITY AND INDEPENDENCE",
CAN STOP HANOI. RUSH

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